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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,221	10/29/2003	Craig Ogg	61135/P022US/10303187	9619
29053 7590 09/29/2010 FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P. 2200 ROSS AVENUE SUITE 2800 DALLAS, TX 75201-2784			EXAMINER WU, RUTAO	
			ART UNIT 3628	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/29/2010	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,221

Applicant(s)

OGG, CRAIG

Examiner

RUTAO WU

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11, 14-29, 31-34 and 36-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 42, 43 and 45 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11, 14-29, 31-34 and 36-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 44 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of claims

1. In response filed July 12, 2010, the Applicant amended claims 9 and 42. Claims 44 and 45 are newly introduced. Claims 9-11, 14-29, 31-34, 36-45 are pending in the current application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 12, 2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed July 12, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. With respect to claim 9, the Applicant assert that Ogg in view of Beaudion do not teach "said mail pieces have an appearance of a mail item comprising a traditional postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand, wherein said appearance of said mail item comprising a traditional postage stamp that

was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand is achieved at least in part by said valid postage labels being formatted as said traditional postage stamp."

The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

5. The Applicant assert that mailpieces taught by Beaudoin do not have the appearance of a mail item comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand because the labels disclosed by Beaudoin have tale-tale signs of traditional permit mail which make it obvious to one of ordinary skill that the label is a bulk permit label.

6. Beaudoin discloses "It is well known in the production of mass mailings that machine printed postal indicia (postal franking) can indicate to the recipient that the enclosed material is "junk mail" thus resulting in the recipient simply discarding the mail piece thereby resulting in a possible loss of revenue by the postal customer, since the mail piece went unopened and the purchase or service opportunity was lost. It has been found that the placing of stamps on envelopes involved in a mass mailing campaign results in a greater acceptance by the recipient, as the mail does not appear to be a mass mailing product, but rather a product in which a stamp was physically applied to the outgoing envelope." (col 1: lines 7-18) Beaudoin then goes through detail in describing postage label that is made to have the appearance of a hand applied postage stamp acquirable from a Post Office by describing that the label includes as graphics a color representation of an image while the indicia such as "PERMIT NO.1" and "BULK RATE" are imaged so that appear to overlies the graphics. (col 3: lines 60-67) This shows that Beaudoin is trying to create an indicia that looks like a hand applied

stamp that have been processed by the postal service and marks left by the postal service during processing. Beaudoin also discloses that the label has a size approximately the same as a conventional postage stamp, or any other conventional stamp sizes, (col 4: lines 2-8) and that the label can have sides that have a scalloped configuration which simulates the sides of conventional postage stamps. (col 4: lines 10-12)

7. From Beaudoin's disclosure, it is apparent that Beaudoin is aware of the problem cause by traditional machine printed postal indicia and discloses a system to take advantage of the benefits of making traditional machine printed postal indicia to have the appearance of hand applied postage stamp that is acquirable from a Post Office. Therefore Beaudoin teaches the limitations put forth by the Applicant in claim 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 9-11, 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub No. 2002/0073039 to Ogg et al in view of U.S. Pub No. 2001/0037320 to Allport et al in further view of U.S. Pat No 5,836,617 to Beaudoin et al.

Referring to claim 9:

A method for printing postage indicia on labels to create postage stamps, comprising:

Ogg et al disclose

Receiving information associated with a plurality of mail pieces that require postage, wherein the information is used to determine the amount of the required postage for each of a plurality of postage indicia to be printed; [0031]-[0034] and

Printing, by a printer, valid postage labels, wherein each of the valid postage labels comprise an image and a postage indicium corresponding to the required postage amount, wherein each of the postage stamps is associated with a particular one of the plurality of mail pieces, and wherein at least two of the postage indicia are not identical [0037].

Ogg et al does not expressly disclose wherein the image is selected based upon one or more characteristics of the particular recipient.

Allport et al disclose printing a postage indicia label wherein the image is selected based upon one or more characteristics of the particular recipient. [0029], [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to combine the image selection for postal indicia as discloses by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the element of printing postage indicia and the element of selecting the image would have functions the same as it did separately, and

one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Ogg et al does not expressly disclose applying, by a high speed mail item processing computer system, said valid postage labels to said particular one of the plurality of mail pieces, wherein said mail pieces have an appearance of a mail item comprising a traditional postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service that was applied by hand, wherein said appearance of said mail item comprising a traditional postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand is achieved at least in part by said valid postage labels being formatted as said traditional postage stamp.

Beaudoin et al disclose applying, by a high speed mail item processing computer system, said valid postage labels to said particular one of the plurality of mail pieces, wherein said mail pieces have an appearance of a mail item comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service that was applied by hand, wherein said appearance of said mail item comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand is achieved at least in part by said valid postage labels being formatted as said postage stamp that was obtained from said delivery service. (col 4: lines 4-14; col 5: lines 25-39)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to incorporate the high-speed letter processing system as disclosed by Beaudoin et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have

performed the same function as it did separately. In the present invention, the monitoring, determining, printing and applying postage indicia steps disclosed by Ogg et al will be performed the same when combined into a high-speed mail processing system as disclosed by Beaudoin et al, thus one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 10:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 9 further comprising:

Calculating the required postage amount from the information associated with the mail pieces. [0032]

Referring to claim 11:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 9 wherein the received information associated with the mail pieces comprises a required postage amount. [0031]

Referring to claim 14:

Ogg et al disclose each of the postage stamps are associated with a mail piece that is designated for a particular recipient;(Fig 9 and 10) Ogg et al does not expressly disclose that the image is selected based upon a characteristic of the recipient, and the characteristics are selected from the group consisting of:

The recipient's age;

The recipient's sex;

The recipient's occupation; and

The recipient's location.

Allport et al disclose selecting an image basing upon a characteristic of the recipient wherein the characteristics are selected from the group consisting of: the recipient's sex, the recipient's location. [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to combine the image selection based on certain recipient characteristics as discloses by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the element of printing postage indicia and the element of selecting the image would have functions the same as it did separately, and one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 15:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 9 wherein a single image is printed on a plurality of valid postage labels; and wherein the plurality of valid postage labels are printed with indicia representing at least two different postage amounts.(Fig 6)

Referring to claim 16:

Ogg et al disclose wherein the postage indicia printed on a plurality of valid postage labels represent a single postage amount. [0037] Ogg et al does not expressly disclose wherein the plurality of valid postage labels are printed with varying images.

Allport et al disclose that images can be selected and printed as part of the postage indicia where the image varies based on certain recipient characteristics.

[0029], [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to vary the images printed on the plurality of labels as disclosed by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the element of printing postage indicia and the element of selecting the image would have functions the same as it did separately, and one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 17:

Ogg et al disclose wherein the postage indicia vary based on weight and recipient location [0033]. Ogg et al does not expressly disclose that the images on the labels also vary.

Allport et al disclose that images can be selected and printed as part of the postage indicia where the image varies based on certain recipient characteristics.

[0029], [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to vary the images printed on the plurality of labels as disclosed by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the element of printing postage indicia and the element of selecting the image would have functions the same as it did

separately, and one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 18:

Ogg et al disclose the method of claim 9 wherein the valid postage labels are printed on a printing medium comprising a roll of blank labels that are printing in series, [0035]

Ogg et al do not expressly disclose wherein the roll of printed valid postage labels appears to be a roll of postage stamps.

Beaudoin et al disclose a high speed printing device for printing postage indicia on labels with a look and feel of a conventional United States postage stamp. (col 4: lines 4-14; col 5: lines 25-39)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to include the look and feel of the postage label as disclosed by Beaudoin et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the printing element and the making the postage label look like a United States postage stamp merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 19:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 9 wherein the valid postage labels are printed on a printing medium comprising a sheet of blank labels, [0035]

Ogg et al do not expressly disclose wherein the sheet of printed valid postage labels appears to be a sheet of postage stamps.

Beaudoin et al disclose a high speed printing device for printing postage indicia on labels with a look and feel of a conventional United States postage stamp. (col 4: lines 4-14; col 5: lines 25-39)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to include the look and feel of the postage label as disclosed by Beaudoin et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination the printing element and the making the postage label look like a United States postage stamp merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 20:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 9 wherein a blank printing medium upon which the valid postage labels are printed comprise a serial number. [0036]

Referring to claim 21:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 20 further comprising:

Verifying that the serial number is valid. [0039]

Referring to claim 22:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 20 wherein the printed postage indicia includes the serial number. [0036]

Referring to claim 23:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 9 wherein the printing step comprises:

Receiving label stock having a pre-printed serial number, the pre-printed serial number including a master serial number; [0036]

Generating an indicium using with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and required request [0036]; and

Printing the valid postage labels comprising the indicium on the label stock.
[0036]

10. Claims 24-29, 33, 34 and 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogg et al in view of DeWitt et al in further view of Beaudoin et al.

Referring to claim 24:

A method for creating postage stamps for use on mail pieces, comprising:

Ogg et al disclose

Calculating a postage amount due for each of the mail pieces; [0031], [0032]

Printing, by a printer on blank labels, the valid postage labels comprising postage indicia corresponding to the postage amount calculated for the mail pieces and comprising images, wherein each of the postage stamps is associated with a particular

one of the mail pieces, and wherein at least two of the valid postage labels are not identical; [0031]-[0036] and

Applying the valid postage labels to the associated mail pieces. [0026]

Ogg et al do not expressly disclose

monitoring a location of mail pieces in a high-speed letter processing system;

Creating valid postage labels associated with each of the mail pieces before the mail pieces arrive at a location comprising postage stamp applicator;

Coordinating the operation of the postage stamp applicator and the location of the mail piece to ensure that the correct valid postage labels are applied to each envelope.

DeWitt et al disclose monitoring a location of mail piece in a high-speed letter processing system; [0022] Creating valid postage labels associated with each of the mail pieces before the mail pieces arrive at a location comprising postage stamp applicator; [0086] and coordinating the operation of the postage stamp applicator and the location of the mail piece to ensure that the correct valid postage labels are applied to each envelope. [0081]-[0083]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to include the high-speed mail processing system as disclosed by DeWitt et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination creating postage labels with matching serial numbers as disclosed by Ogg et al and the high-speed mail processing system of DeWitt et al would have continued to perform the same function as it did separately.

Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Ogg et al and DeWitt et al do not expressly disclose wherein the associated mail pieces have an appearance of a mail item comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand.

Beaudoin et al disclose mail pieces having an appearance of a mail item comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand. (col 4: lines 4-14)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to incorporate the appearance of a hand applied postage stamp as disclosed by Beaudoin et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately. In the present invention, the monitoring, determining, printing and applying postage indicia steps disclosed by Ogg et al will be performed the same when combined into a high-speed mail processing system as disclosed by Beaudoin et al, thus one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 25:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 further comprising:

Monitoring the quality of the valid postage labels to ensure that the proper postage valid postage labels were printed [0040]

Referring to claim 26:

Ogg et al do not expressly disclose monitoring the quality of the mail pieces to ensure that the valid postage labels have been properly applied.

DeWitt et al disclose monitoring the quality of the mail pieces to ensure that the valid postage labels have been properly applied. [0095]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to include the high-speed mail processing system as disclosed by DeWitt et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination creating postage labels with matching serial numbers as disclosed by Ogg et al and the high-speed mail processing system of DeWitt et al would have continued to perform the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 27:

Ogg et al do not expressly disclose

Monitoring the quality of the mail pieces to ensure that the postage indicia represents a proper postage amount. [0032]

DeWitt et al disclose monitoring the quality of the mail pieces to ensure that the postage indicia represents a proper postage amount. [0095]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to include the high-speed mail processing system as disclosed by DeWitt et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination

of old elements, and in the combination creating postage labels with matching serial numbers as disclosed by Ogg et al and the high-speed mail processing system of DeWitt et al would have continued to perform the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 28:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 wherein the calculating step further comprises:

Determining a destination for a mail piece; (Fig 4)

Calculating the postage amount based upon the destination of the mail piece

[0031]

Referring to claim 29:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 wherein the calculating step further comprises:

Determining a weight for a mail piece;[0032]

Calculating the postage amount based upon the weight of the mail piece. [0032]

Referring to claim 33:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 wherein the blank labels comprise a roll of blank labels that are printed in series. [0035]

Referring to claim 34:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 wherein the blank labels comprise a sheet of blank labels. [0035]

Referring to claim 36:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 wherein the blank labels comprise a serial number. [0036]

Referring to claim 37:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 36 further comprising:

Verifying that the serial number is valid. [0039]

Referring to claim 38:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 36 wherein printed postage indicia includes the serial number. (Fig 6)

Referring to claim 39:

Ogg et al disclose

The method of claim 24 wherein the printing step further comprises:

Receiving label stock having a pre-printed serial number, the pre-printed serial number including a master serial number; [0036]

Generating postage indicia using the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and required request; [0036] and

Printing the postage indicia on the label stock. [0036]

Referring to Claim 40:

Ogg et al do not expressly disclose coordinating the location of the mail pieces and the operation of the postage indicium applicator and a postage evidencing system that creates the valid postage labels to ensure that the correct valid postage labels are applied to each mail piece.

DeWitt et al disclose coordinating the operation of the postage stamp applicator and the location of the mail piece to ensure that the correct valid postage labels are applied to each envelope. [0081]-[0083]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to include the high-speed mail processing system as disclosed by DeWitt et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination creating postage labels with matching serial numbers as disclosed by Ogg et al and the high-speed mail processing system of DeWitt et al would have continued to perform the same function as it did separately. Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

11. Claims 31, 32 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pub No. 2002/0073039 to Ogg et al in view of U.S. Pub No. 2001/0037320 to Allport et al in further view of U.S. Pub No 2003/0014376 to DeWitt et al in further view of Beaudoin et al.

Referring to claim 31:

Ogg et al disclose printing an image on the blank labels, wherein each of the postage indicia are associated with a mail piece that is designated for a particular recipient; [0037]

Ogg et al does not expressly disclose wherein the image is selected based upon one or more characteristics of the particular recipient.

Allport et al disclose printing a postage indicia label wherein the image is selected based upon one or more characteristics of the particular recipient. [0029], [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to combine the image selection for postal indicia as discloses by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to claim 32:

Ogg et al disclose each of the postage stamps are associated with a mail piece that is designated for a particular recipient;(Fig 9 and 10) Ogg et al does not expressly disclose that the image is selected based upon a characteristic of the recipient, and the characteristics are selected from the group consisting of:

The recipient's age;

The recipient's sex;

The recipient's occupation; and

The recipient's location.

Allport et al disclose selecting an image basing upon a characteristic of the recipient wherein the characteristics are selected from the group consisting of: the recipient's sex, the recipient's location. [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to combine the image selection based on certain recipient characteristics as discloses by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Referring to Claim 41:

Ogg et al disclose printing an image on the blank labels, wherein each of the postage indicia are associated with a mail piece that is designated for a particular recipient; [0037]

Ogg et al does not expressly disclose wherein the image is selected based upon one or more characteristics of the particular recipient.

Allport et al disclose printing a postage indicia label wherein the image is selected based upon one or more characteristics of the particular recipient. [0029], [0032]

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for Ogg et al to combine the image selection for postal indicia as discloses by Allport et al since the claimed invention is merely a combination

of old elements, and in the combination each element merely would have performed the same function as it did separately, and one ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 42, 43 and 45 are allowed over the prior art.
13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art taken separately or together do not teach or disclose the following limitation of claim 42 "wherein the machine generated postage stamp is two separate labels appearing to be two different postage stamps which display postage amounts in increments that are offered by the delivery service and the two postage amounts displayed by the two separate labels total at least the determined postage amount."
14. Claim 44 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Examiner's Note: Independent claims 9 and 24 do not have the allowable limitation of claim 42 as stated above. The Examiner recommends the Applicant to include the limitations of claim 44 in independent claims 9, 24 and 42 and also include the allowable feature of claim 42 in independent claims 9 and 24 in the interest of not having separate and distinct inventions in the current application.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RUTAO WU whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RUTAO WU/
Examiner, Art Unit 3628